

Chapter 6. CONSULTATION

Chapter 7 of the Final Environmental Document (FED) explains the role that consultation with other agencies, professionals, and the public plays in the Department's marine resource management programs.

Consultations also occur during the annual review of regulations guiding the commercial harvest of herring. The process began this year when the Department presented the results of its annual population assessment and discussed possible regulatory changes for the 2004-05 season with the Director's Herring Advisory Committee (DHAC) on March 25, 2004.

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The Department's recommendations were modified, as necessary, based on the Committee's comments, and presented at public hearings on April 13, 2004. The public meetings also served as a scoping session for the content of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Document (DSED). A second DHAC meeting was held on April 30, 2004. The recommendations were again modified, as necessary, based on information and comments received during the public hearing, and the April 30th DHAC meeting. These recommendations will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission in August 2004.

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Prior to preparation of the DSED, the Department initiated a broader consultation by distributing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) that announced the intent to prepare the document dated April 9, 2004. In the NOP, the Department requested submission of views on the scope and content of the environmental information to be contained therein. The notice was distributed to members of the public and interested organizations that had expressed prior interest in herring management. The NOP was also provided to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to appropriate responsible and trustee agencies.